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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

72-HOUR REPORT

11 DECEMBER 2017

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – US Unveils New Travel Advisory System

(U) Washington – The State Department unveiled a new system for communicating security risks associated with foreign travel to reduce confusion and protect US citizens abroad. The existing guidance system will be replaced by a four-tiered advisory system, whereby every country will be assigned one of the following security levels: Level 1 - Exercise normal precautions, Level 2 - Exercise increased caution, Level 3 - Reconsider travel and Level 4 - Do not travel. The levels are meant to communicate the risk of travel to each country, but are advisories only. Citizens will not be forbidden from traveling to Level 4 countries unless otherwise barred by the US government. The process to assign levels to countries is ongoing, and will be unveiled sometime in January.

SOURCE: 8 December 2017, [CNN](#)

(U) Kentucky – 17 Charged as Drug Trafficking Organization Dismantled

(U) Louisville – Seventeen people are under federal indictment relating to a large drug trafficking operation that was selling meth in Indiana and Kentucky. The United States Attorney's for Indiana and Kentucky announced the indictments during a joint news conference. A large amount of methamphetamine, 13.5 pounds, and 21 illegal firearms were confiscated. Seven suspects have been charged with conspiracy to distribute meth in the Southern District of Indiana. The organization allegedly sold the meth on a front basis, providing large amounts of drugs to other dealers.

SOURCE: 8 December 2017, [WAVE3 News](#)

(U) New York – Four Injured in NYC Subway Pipe Bomb Explosion

(U) New York – A man with a pipe bomb strapped to himself set off the crude device in the subway near Times Square injuring the suspect and three other people at the height of the morning rush hour, law enforcement officials said. The man and three others were being treated for non-life-threatening injuries. Law enforcement officials said it appeared the detonation was accidental, and the bomb was a crudely made low-grade explosive device. It's not clear what the suspect had intended. NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio has declared the incident to be an attempted terrorist attack.

SOURCE: 11 December 2017, [Associated Press](#) and [Washington Post](#)

(U) North Carolina – County Leaders Say Second Cyberattack Failed

(U) Charlotte – A North Carolina County recovering from a cyberattack says hackers failed in a second attempt to infiltrate their computer system. Mecklenburg County officials say foreign hackers redoubled their efforts after the county refused to pay a ransom. County officials released a statement last Friday saying the second attack was unsuccessful. Earlier in the week ransomware hit county computers when an employee opened a fraudulent email. Dozens of county servers were frozen by the hackers, requiring technology workers to embark on days of repairs.

SOURCE: 8 December 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Texas – Self-Propelled Vessel Intercepted With 3,800 Pounds of Cocaine

(U) Corpus Christi – A US Coast Guard cutter intercepted a self-propelled semi-submersible vessel

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engaged in smuggling more than 3,800 pounds of cocaine, federal officials said yesterday. According to the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), on 13 November, CBP and Marine Operations (AMO) arrested the crew during operations in international waters. The multi-day operation from surveillance to interception, according to CBP, involved several interagency partners including the US Coast Guard and the US Navy.

SOURCE: 11 December 2017, [FOX News](#)

(U) Washington – Teen Arrested for Bringing Explosive Device to School

(U) Silverdale – A 15-year-old boy was arrested at Central Kitsap High School last Friday morning for bringing an explosive device to the campus. Administrators had detained the boy and found some sort of explosive device in his backpack. Investigators discovered the student brought the device to school after telling other students via social media. They said there had been talks of detonating the explosive, either on or off-campus, during the same time a school assembly was scheduled. Detectives said the device turned out to be a commercially manufactured explosive, which falls under the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) jurisdiction.

SOURCE: 8 December 2017, [KOMO News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Congo – 15 UN Peacekeepers Dead and Dozens Hurt in Attack**

(U) Kinshasa – In the deadliest single attack on a United Nations peacekeeping mission in nearly 25 years, rebels in eastern Congo killed 15 peacekeepers and wounded over 50 others in an assault on their base that was launched at nightfall and went on for hours. The peacekeepers killed were from Tanzania. Three peacekeepers were missing, the UN said. More than 20 were evacuated for medical treatment in the regional capital, Goma.

SOURCE: 8 December 2017, [NBC News](#)

(U) Germany – Warning of Chinese LinkedIn Espionage

(U) Berlin – The German intelligence agency (BfV) alleges that China is using fake LinkedIn profiles to gather information on German officials and politicians. BfV alleges that Chinese intelligence used the networking site to target at least 10,000 Germans, possibly to recruit them as informants. It released several fake profiles allegedly used for this purpose. The BfV published eight of what they say are the most active profiles used to contact German LinkedIn users. They are designed to look enticing to other users, and promote young Chinese professionals who do not exist. The agency is increasingly worried that Chinese intelligence is using the method to recruit high-ranking politicians as informants.

SOURCE: 11 December 2017, [BBC](#)

(U) Sweden – Three Arrested for Attack on Synagogue

(U) Gothenburg – Three people have been arrested for allegedly throwing firebombs at a synagogue in the Swedish city of Goteborg, the second anti-Jewish attack in the Nordic nation in two days. No one was injured in the attack last Saturday during a youth event at the synagogue and the adjacent Jewish center in Sweden's second-largest city. The attack took place after 200 people rallied in the southern city of Malmo, yelling anti-Jewish slogans, and waving Palestinian flags to protest US President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

SOURCE: 10 December 2017, [Associated Press](#)

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER****(U) Arizona – Border Agents Arrest Head Scout of Smuggling Organization**

(U) Tucson – Federal agents arrested the suspected head scout for a drug smuggling organization that controls the corridor north of Lukeville, AZ. Jose Angel Felix Ramirez, 28, also known as “Cinco,” was the head scout for the Sonoyta, Sonora-based “Cusa” smuggling organization that moves migrants and marijuana from the US-Mexico border to the Phoenix area. After weeks of surveillance, Border Patrol agents arrested Felix, a Mexican citizen identified in the complaint as the lead scout in charge of the smuggling network for the smuggling season.

SOURCE: 9 December 2017, Tucson.com

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